

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

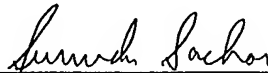
By the present Preliminary Amendment an Abstract is submitted herein.

Further, the claims are amended without prejudice to no longer recite any improper multiple dependencies. The claim amendments are not believed to narrow the claims in any aspect.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Masayasu Mori  
Registration No. 47,301  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423  
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
SNS:smi

I:\ATTY\SNS\26s\260364\260364US-PR.DOC